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approbation. It is to be hoped that their venture (for it is a venture to place upon the market such an expensive book as this must have been at such a low price) will prove no less profitable financially than it has proved excellent from a scientific and bibliographic point of view.

We expect an immediate adoption of the book by all the leading colleges in the country, not only because of the importance of the subject of which it treats, but also because of its excellent qualities as a treatise.—W. S. B.

Britton's Catalogue of New Jersey Plants.¹—This thick volume of 642 octavo pages is one of which the botanists of the country may well feel proud, inasmuch as it is the most complete of any yet attempted in the United States. From the table in the end of the volume we learn that there are :

Anthophyta	1,919	species and varieties.		
Pteridophyta	76	"	"	"
Bryophyta	461	"	"	"
Thallophyta	3,021	"	"	"
Protophyta	164	"	"	"
Total	5,641	"	"	"

The preface states that "the present work is based, so far as the flowering plants, ferns, and fern allies are concerned, on specimens actually seen and examined by myself, and contained in the State Herbarium above alluded to, or in other collections of repute. The lists of lower plants have been supplied by specialists of high reputation and authority." It is thus an authoritative catalogue, which is susceptible of correction, if need be, at any time in the future.

In discussing the distribution of the plants of the State the author refers to the rocky and mountainous areas of the northeastern portion, the glacial drift of the same region, the lower level of the southern part, and the much greater sandiness of its soil. "Our flora may thus be divided with considerable accuracy into a northern and a southern, whose present distribution has been determined by differences of soil and climate." These are separated by the glacial terminal moraine. "Besides these two main divisions of our flora, there is another, which may be termed the marine and coast group of plants,—species and varieties especially characteristic of the sea-beaches and salt and brackish

¹Catalogue of Plants Found in New Jersey. (From the final report of the State Geologist, Vol. II.). By N. L. Britton, Ph.D., with the assistance of the botanists of the State and contiguous territory, and of specialists in the several departments of the science. Trenton, N. J.: Printed by The John L. Murphy Publishing Company, 1889.

marshes and meadows. Some of these are plainly forms of upland origin which have accommodated themselves to their saline surroundings, and been thereby slightly changed in structure and appearance, so as now to be evidently distinct from their inland neighbors and relatives, while others appear to be very distinct from any other living forms."

The sequence of the orders of flowering plants is that adopted by Bentham and Hooker in their "Genera Plantarum," with the exception that "the class Gymnospermæ has been moved into its more natural position at the extreme end of the flowering-plant series, and immediately before the fern allies, with which it has more affinity than with the willows and poplars, next to which it has generally been placed." In the citation of names the law of priority is rigidly followed, "the oldest specific or varietal name available being retained, in whatever genus the plant is located, or whatever its rank as species or variety." As to the double citation of authorities the author says: "The method adopted of citing the original author of the specific or varietal name—the only permanent portion of the binomial—in a parenthesis tells us who first named the plant, while the added name behind the parenthesis shows who first brought the names together in their present combination. This method has, with slight modifications, been generally adopted by zoologists and by students of fungi, algæ, lichens, and mosses, and its general use in botany tends to bring all biological nomenclature into harmony."

It may be of interest to note some of the changes of names to be observed in this catalogue, as follows:

Anemone pennsylvanica L. (of Gray's Manual) = *A. dichotoma* L.

Nymphæa odorata Ait. (of Gray's Manual) = *Castalia odorata* (Dryand.) Greene.

Nymphæa reniformis DC. (of Gray's Manual) = *C. tuberosa* (Paine) Greene.

Nuphar advena Ait. f. = *Nymphæa advena* Soland.

Nuphar kalmianum Ait. = *Nymphæa microphylla* Pers.

Dicentra is given as *Diclytra*.

Adlumia cirrhosa Raf. = *A. fungosa* (Ait.) Greene.

Acer saccharinum Wang. = *A. saccharum* Marsh.

Acer dasycarpum Ehrh. = *A. saccharinum* L.

Carya alba Nutt. = *Hicoria ovata* (Mill.) Britt.

Carya tomentosa Nutt. = *H. alba* (L.) Britt.

Carya microcarpa Nutt. = *H. microcarpa* (Nutt.) Britt.

Carya porcina Nutt. = *H. glabra* (Mill.) Britt.

Carya amara Nutt. = *H. minima* (Marsh.) Britt.
Leersia virginica Willd. = *Homalocenchrus virginica* (Willd.) Britt.
Leersia oryzoides Swartz = *Homalocenchrus oryzoides* (L.) Poll.
Phragmites communis Trin. = *P. vulgaris* (Lam.) B. S. P.
Chamæcyparis sphaeroidea Spach. = *C. thyoides* (L.) B. S. P.
Pinus inops Ait. = *P. virginiana* Mill.
Pinus mitis Michx. = *P. echinata* Mill.
Picea nigra Link. = *Picea mariana* (Mill.) B. S. P.
Larix americana Michx. = *L. laricina* (DuRoi) B. S. P.

Many other changes might be cited, but these will serve to show the treatment of the vexed question of nomenclature and synonymy. While some of the changes are quite startling and uncomfortable, there can be little doubt that a rigid enforcement of the "law of priority" will eventually result in a greater fixity of names than now exists.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

The West American Oaks.²—Dr. Albert Kellogg began the preparation of a series of drawings to illustrate the oaks, pines, and other trees of the Pacific coast of the United States, intending to accompany them by appropriate descriptions, but death closed his work long before it came to completion. Now, through the munificence of Mr. McDonald and the aid of Professor Greene, the work is brought out in an appropriate form.

The first species figured and described is *Quercus kelloggii* Newberry, which bears a strong resemblance to the eastern red oak (*Q. rubra*). It is the *Q. sonomensis* Benth. of DeCandolle's "Prodromus." Then follow *Q. morehus* Kellogg, *Q. wizlizeni* A.DC., and *Q. agrifolia* Nee, all apparently related, although the first is deciduous and the others evergreen. *Q. hypoleuca* Engelm. is a narrow-leaved species quite distinct from the preceding. *Q. garryana* Dougl. and *Q. lobata* Nee, are closely related, and resemble the white oak of the eastern United States. The last-named species is the *Q. hindsii* Benth. of the Pacific Railroad Reports. *Q. gambelii* Nutt. is still more like the white oak, both in leaf and acorn. It is a shrub of six to eight feet in height, or a middle-sized tree from thirty to sixty feet high, with a trunk three feet in diameter. The tree form is confined to the "middle and higher elevations of the mountains of southern New Mexico and Arizona, and of adjacent Mexico." The smaller form occurs upon

² Illustrations of West American Oaks. From drawings by the late Albert Kellogg, M.D., the text by Edward L. Greene. Published from funds provided by James M. McDonald, Esq., San Francisco, May, 1889. 4to, pp. xii + 47, with XXIV. plates.

West American Oaks. Part II., San Francisco, June, 1890, pp. 52 to 84, with plates XXV. to XXXVII.